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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 21 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and on my own behalf, to express our deep appreciation for your understanding and support for the Decolonization Programme. The debate on the Decolonization Unit during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly came to a successful completion as a result of your commitment to the Decolonization Programme. I wish also to thank all Member States that supported the Programme and the work of the Special Committee during the session.

In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly to establish a stand-alone Decolonization Unit in the Department of Political Affairs, and with a view to opening the new session of the Special Committee, I kindly request that appropriate action be taken to assign the Secretary of the Special Committee and his Assistant to the Decolonization Unit in the Department of Political Affairs, as agreed to in both the Fourth Committee and the Fifth Committee and later endorsed by the General Assembly.

I would like to invite you to open the 1998 session of the Special Committee, which will begin in the first week of February. I wish to convey to you the assurances of the Special Committee that it will continue to cooperate fully with you and with the Secretariat in order to implement the Decolonization Programme. I take this opportunity to assure also the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that the Special Committee will continue to maintain their interests as a paramount goal in its work programme and to ensure that their right to self-determination is fully implemented. I would like to request that

this letter be issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples".

(Signed) Utula U. SAMANA, CMG
Chairman
Special Committee on the Situation
with regard to the Implementation
of the Declaration on the Granting
of Independence to Colonial
Countries and Peoples